

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned
Applicants : Francis Salituro et al.,
Serial No. : Not Yet Assigned
Filed : Herewith
For : INHIBITORS OF C-JUN N-TERMINAL KINASES
(JNK)

Cambridge, Massachusetts
November 30, 2001

Hon. Assistant Commissioner
For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.115(a)

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, immediately after the title, insert

■ CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuing application of co-pending International Patent Application PCT/US00/15248, filed June 2, 2000, which claims priority of United States provisional patent application 60/137,523, filed June 3, 1999. --

REMARKS

In former specification page 1, after the title of the specification and before the section entitled "TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION", applicants have inserted a paragraph, entitled "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS", which properly sets forth the claims to priority.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), the above amendments are set forth in the enclosed marked up copy of substitute specification page 1 (see, Appendix A). Applicants have also enclosed, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(ii), a clean form of substitute specification page 1, incorporating the above amendments (see, Appendix B).

None of the above amendments adds any new matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the above amendments, and allow the pending claims to pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Ian Robert Silverman (Reg. No. 37,443)
Attorney for Applicants
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
130 Waverly Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-4242
Tel.: (617) 444-6692
Fax.: (617) 444-6483

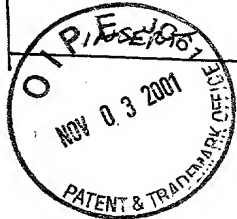
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of co-pending International Application PCT/US00/15248, filed June 2, 2000, which claims priority of United States provisional patent application 60/237,523, filed June 3, 1999.

VPI/99-06

INHIBITORS OF c-JUN N-TERMINAL KINASES (JNK)

TECHNICAL FIELD OF INVENTION



5 The present invention relates to inhibitors of
c-Jun N-terminal kinases (JNK), which are members of the
mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase family. There are
a number of different genes and isoforms which encode
JNKs. Members of the JNK family regulate signal
transduction in response to environmental stress and
10 proinflammatory cytokines and have been implicated to
have a role in mediating a number of different disorders.
The invention also relates to methods for producing these
inhibitors. The invention also provides pharmaceutical
compositions comprising the inhibitors of the invention
15 and methods of utilizing those compositions in the
treatment and prevention of various disorders.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 Mammalian cells respond to extracellular stimuli
by activating signaling cascades that are mediated by
members of the mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase
family, which include the extracellular signal regulated
kinases (ERKs), the p38 MAP kinases and the c-Jun N-
terminal kinases (JNKs). MAP kinases (MAPKs) are
25 activated by a variety of signals including growth
factors, cytokines, UV radiation, and stress-inducing
agents. MAPKs are serine/threonine kinases and their
activation occur by dual phosphorylation of threonine and